Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine Weekly Notice, May 2, 2005

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/

Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB)

New Jersey

Middlesex/Union Counties ALB Infestation

New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Charles M. Kuperus and Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell joined Rahway Mayor James Kennedy and others at Rahway's Grover Cleveland Elementary School on Thursday, April 28, to commemorate Arbor Day with the planting of trees that are resistant to the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB). Secretary Kuperus spoke about the importance of cooperation among public and private partners in the fight against the beetle, giving special mention to Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G) for their help with trees around power lines and Covanta Energy, the company running the Rahway incinerator, for their help in burning wood chips from trees cut down due to ALB infestation.

As of April 27, 4,019 trees have been removed from the Middlesex/Union ALB quarantine area. Of those, 507 were infested host trees and 3,512 were high risk exposed host trees. Crews continued removing trees in areas of Carteret, Rahway and Linden. On April 25, NJ-12 News, New Jersey's Cable News Network, did an update story with Barry Emens, USDA-APHIS ALB New Jersey Program Director, on the tree removal process being conducted the Middlesex/Union ALB quarantine.

Currently, 14 program personnel from USDA APHIS PPQ, NJ Department of Agriculture, NJ Forest Service are performing survey, control and regulatory activities. Eighteen USDA Forest Service Smokejumpers continue to survey trees in the Middlesex/Union ALB quarantine. To date a total of 14,815 trees have been inspected. Program personnel continue to make preparations for tree treatments in the Middlesex/Union Counties ALB quarantine area. Treatments are slated to start May 16 with approximately 20,200 trees that will be treated with the insecticide imidacloprid.

On April 25, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Forest Service in cooperation with Mayor Daniel J. Reiman of Carteret held a public meeting concerning the ALB reforestation plan for Carteret. Representatives from NJ DEP explained all the parts of the reforestation process. Approximately 50 residents attended the meeting which was covered by the Star Ledger, who ran a story in their April 26 edition. On April 28, the Star Ledger ran a feature story on the ALB Program's reforestation efforts being conducted in Carteret. The story covered the planting of 56 new non-host trees on Pinho Road in Carteret.

Jersey City/Hoboken ALB Infestation

Four program personnel continue to perform survey and regulatory activities in the Jersey City/Hoboken ALB quarantine area. Tree treatments in the Jersey City/Hoboken ALB quarantine area were completed on April 28; a total of 893 trees were treated.

New York

On April 28, an ALB infested a 22 inch American elm tree in Central Park located between 70th and 71st Street along 5th Avenue was confirmed. The detection was made by a Forest Service Smokejumper. It has multiple egg sites and no exit holes.

A team of five USDA-FS Smokejumpers have been climbing and conducting surveys on ALB host trees in Central Park since Mid-March from 72nd Street down to 59th Street. To date the team has climbed and inspected 1,150 trees with one infested tree detected. An additional 500 host trees will be inspected before the team completes its survey on or about April 30. New York Times is doing a feature story on the team of Smokejumpers and the infested tree discovered in Central Park. The story is slated to run Friday, April 29 front page of the Metro Section. Smokejumpers surveyed Central Park in the winter of 2004, inspecting host trees south of 66th Street. During that survey, no signs of ALB were found. The last known ALB infestation in Central Park was February 5, 2002, when one infested Norway maple and one infested sugar maple were found in Hallett Nature Sanctuary at the southeast end of the park, around 59th Street. Both infested trees were removed, chipped and incinerated. The last time an ALB infestation was detected in Manhattan was November 17, 2004, when ALB Cooperative Eradication Program staff personnel found an infested elm tree in the Upper East Side of Manhattan by 66th Street and Third Avenue.

As of April 26, 34 ALB infested trees have been found in Massapequa. These detections are well within the core of the established ALB quarantine boundaries of Central Long Island. Program officials will be removing the 34 infested trees along with approximately 190 high risk exposed host trees. Program personnel continue to conduct delimiting survey of the area.

So far this year, 47 infested trees have been detected within the established quarantined areas of New York State; 11 infested trees have been found in Brooklyn; 1 tree in Queens; 1 in Central Park; and 34 trees in Massapequa. This brings the total of infested trees in New York State to 6,231.

Chemical treatments began in Brooklyn and Queens on Wednesday, April 27. As of the 27th, a total of 3,134 trees have been treated in New York. 1,902 trees were treated on Long Island using the Arborjet Trunk Injection application system (AJ); 747 trees in Manhattan received treatment using the Basal Soil Injection system (BSI) and 2 trees with the AJ; 192 trees treated in Brooklyn and 291 trees in Queens were treated using BSI.

ILLINOIS
As of April 22, a total of 44,720 trees have been surveyed for the year with no signs of ALB infestations.

As of April 26, a total of 3,622 trees have been treated around Chicago's Oz Park. 4,375 trees are targeted for treatment.
Source: Christine Markham

Gypsy Moth
A conference call led by PDMP between USDA (including Forest Service and PPQ participants) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has resulted in a commitment from CFIA to deploy approximately 400 gypsy moth (GM) traps for the current year in the 9500 square kilometer area adjacent to the U.S.-Canadian border north of Lake and Cook counties Minnesota. The area has not been trapped by CFIA for GM since 2002. The deployment of traps in this area of Canada is of particular interest to APHIS due to the recent ingression of incipient GM populations into northeastern Minnesota, and the capture of 4 moths in 2004 that displayed unusual DNA profiles intermediate between North American and Asian genotypes.

The State of Idaho is posed to implement a spraying program in response to the 2004 capture of a single Asian Gypsy Moth in the vicinity of Hauser. Aerial spraying by helicopter of *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* over a 1-square mile area is projected to occur during the week of May 11. The timing of the spraying is being determined by a

phenology model and the hatching of sterile GM egg masses that have been deployed in the spray zone. The sterile egg masses were provided by the PPQ Otis Methods Laboratory.
Source: Weyman Fussell, 301-734-5705

P. ramorum
USDA/APHIS has received $9.5 million in emergency funds through the USDA Commodity Credit Corporation to help support *P. ramorum* activities in 2005. The majority of the funding will be used to support the national nursery survey in all 50 states, as well as the required regulatory inspections in California, Oregon, and Washington. It will also be used to fund educational outreach efforts and short-term methods development research in direct support of program activities.

The Washington State Department of Agriculture and USDA-AMS laboratory at Gastonia, NC are provisionally approved by PPQ to run nested-PCR for P. ramorum. We are working out details of sample tracking, data reporting and funding and states will continue to send DNA extracts to the PPQ Beltsville lab for testing. Additional guidance will be forthcoming. Other labs are nearing approval for nested PCR.

California Department of Food and Agriculture has reported 35 *P. ramorum*-positive California nursery detections to APHIS in 2005. Twenty-one of the confirmations were found outside of the 14-county quarantined area, while fourteen were found within it. Positive detections throughout California, by activity, are as follows: nursery stock cleanliness inspections or compliance agreement inspections – 21; and trace forward or trace back investigations – 14.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has inspected more than 1,400 (of about 2000) nurseries as part of the Federal order compliance survey process; 3 sites are *P. ramorum*-positive. Oregon also reported 4 trace-forward positives in residential settings. The residential finds originated at a nursery found positive in 2004. Delimitation surveys confirmed the disease has apparently not spread to other plants already in the landscapes. Infected plants have been removed and incinerated.

The 2005 National Nursery Survey is underway. Ten states have reported on their progress. To date, 221 sites have been surveyed and 1744 samples have been collected; none have been confirmed as positive for *P. ramorum.*
Source: Jim Writer

Soybean Rust
A weekly National Soybean Rust Conference Call for various stakeholders took place on May 4, 2005. Another national stakeholder conference call is planned for May 11, 2005, at 1 PM. Approximately 35 participants representing USDA, APHIS, ARS, CSREES, academia, and industry were present on the call. The "Coordinated Framework" document, reflecting roles and responsibilities has been posted to the USDA website.

On May 03, 2005, USDA-CSREES with support from APHIS, RMA and Pennsylvania State University held a scenario testing exercise in St Louis, MO. The purpose of the exercise was to run through soybean rust scenarios with the involved community, to assess actions of each using hypothetical forecast maps, describing case conditions. The scenarios were run by 3 teams which were representatives of an extension faculty and Certified Crop Advisors, soybean grower representatives, and crop insurance claims managers and representatives. In the one day workshop, two hypothetical scenarios were run based on weather data from 2002 - a dry year, and 2004 - a wet year. One of the main outcomes of the workshop was a need to simplify the public web site and its updating by state soybean

specialists. For further information contact : Roger Magarey, CPHST, Raleigh, Tel.: 919-855-7537, FAX: 919-855-7599.

On April 26, 2005, another positive find of Asian soybean was reported by Florida State agricultural officials from Dade County near Miami. So far, in 2005, Dade County is the fourth county from where soybean rust, also on kudzu, has been reported. In 2005, the other 3 counties of Florida which were previously identified with Asian soybean rust on kudzu are: Pasco, Hernando and Marion.
(See: http://spdn.ifas.ufl.edu/Florida_Soybean_Rust.htm and

http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/enpp/pathology/sbr.htm)

The American Phytopathological Society (APS), in partnership with several cooperating organizations, including USDA, announces the National Soybean Rust Symposium, November 15 – 16, 2005, at the Renaissance Hotel, Nashville, TN.

For detailed information regarding this National Soybean Rust Symposium, refer to the following web site:
http://www.apsnet.org/on-line/sbr
Source: Anwar Rizvi